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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8682
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 8107
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0274
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 7021
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3795
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2001
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6593
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA 1815
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 002365

SIPDIS

ISN/NESS FOR MARC HUMPHREY AND BURRUS CARNAHAN, ISN/RA FOR
RICHARD NEPHEW AND JODY DANIEL, NEA/FO FOR ELISHA CATALANO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/23/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [KNNP](#) [IR](#) [SY](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: INDIA SIGNALS BUSINESS AS USUAL ON FUEL BANKS,
IRAN, SYRIA FOR IAEA BOARD MEETING

REF: A. STATE 117710
[1](#)B. STATE 120282
[1](#)C. STATE 119161
[1](#)D. STATE 120288

Classified By: Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Uzra Zeya for Reasons 1.4
(B) and (D).

[1](#)1. (C) Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Deputy Secretary
for Disarmament and International Security Affairs (DISA)
Vipul repeated familiar positions November 23 in reply to
reftel demarches on several issues before the November 26-27
meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors, including fuel banks,
Iran, and Syria.

[1](#)2. (C) India could not support the introduction of principles
derived from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) in the
Russian proposal for an international nuclear fuel bank (refs
A and B), according to Vipul. Pressed that the proposal had
never envisioned India as a fuel bank recipient, Vipul
replied that India nevertheless could not support the
introduction of NPT principles. While India remained willing
to discuss proposals and continued to view itself as a
supplier for Thorium under any international fuel bank
arrangement, he made clear India would not co-sponsor the
Russian proposal and was cagey about whether India could be
encouraged to support or abstain in the event of a vote. He
shared that the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) was India's
lead agency on the issue.

[1](#)3. (C) Vipul confessed to having nothing new to share on
Director General ElBaradei's fifth report on Syria (ref C),
though he expressed interest in next steps on Iran (ref D).
He shared that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) statement and
India's separate national statement at the IAEA Board meeting
would be similar to previous statements on these issues. He
took on board the suggestion that Iran had so far failed to
take a meaningful step along a diplomatic path with the
United States almost a month after the November 1 Geneva
meeting, and that countries like India that supported such an
approach had a stake in its success. He added that he was
unsure when India would next have an opportunity to press
Iran at senior levels following the November 16 visit of

Iranian Foreign Minister Mottaki.

WHITE